

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, February 14. 1708.

I Think I have sufficiently made out, what I alledg'd in these three Heads.

1. That our Manufactures were decay'd and declining ; and 2. That the Encrease of the *East-India* Goods was the true and only Occasion of it all : This I have prov'd by showing you,

1. That they were in full Trade and good Condition in the Years 1686 to 90.
2. That they began to decline, when the *East-India* Goods began to encrease.
3. That they gradually declin'd in a true Proportion, just as the other encreased.
4. That the Manufactures felt the lowest Decrease, and were in the worst Condition, just when the *East-India* Goods were in their Meridian.

5. That as soon as ever the Prohibition gave a Checque to the *East-India* Trade, the said Manufactures felt a proportion'd Alteration, and sensibly as well as quickly reviv'd.

6. That still gradually and in just Proportion, as the Glut of *East-India* Goods wasted and wore off, the Woollen and Silk Manufactures recover'd, till they grew again from the miserable languishing Condition before describ'd, to the present happy Posture we find them in, and which I have also describ'd ; a Condition that is at present very comfortable to all that wish well to the *English* Trade, and is in particular a very great Support to our Poor, who suffer so deeply in all the other Branches of our Woollen Manufacture,

failure, by this ruinous and destructive War, and helps us to bear it the better.

I cannot but think these Heads will amount to a Demonstration, and even the Gentlemen of the Company themselves cannot but acknowledge, that this Alternative is just—But if they should dispute it, let them be pleas'd but to examine one particular Trade, which now is wholly among our own Poor, and formerly was wholly in the *East India Company*; I mean the Trade of *Silk Handkerchiefs*, formerly the *Monopoly* of several Sorts supply'd this whole Article, and all our Seamen, and such like People wore them, wholly made of Cotton, or Cotton and Silk—I need send the Enquirers no farther now than *Spital-Fields* to produce Witnesses of what I say, which may perhaps seem incredible, (*viz.*) that at least 10000 People are now maintain'd and employ'd by this one single Article, I mean, Making of Handkerchiefs; I should write a Book of this, which is *far* from my Business, if I should enter into the long Account of Particulars; but if 10000 *English* People now get their Bread, by making what 10000 *Mahometans* made before, even this very Article was worth the Prohibition, and as in all Business 'tis a standing Rule to employ as far as possible our own Poor, nothing can be a greater Instance of the Wisdom of the Parliament in the Prohibition of those Goods.

I should leave this Subject here, but I cannot part with it, till I have made a short Note on the Management of our *East India Companies*; I can not only as to Trade in general, but as to their own Interest in particular.

I think, in the Beginning of this War, the *East-India Company* had the greatest Opportunity both to have serv'd themselves and their Country, that ever fell into the Hands of any single Set of Men in the World; all which, whether that they had got Souls to endeavour the general Good of Trade, or any Concern upon them for the

Manufactures of *England*, and Prosperity of our People, or whether a general Infatuation possess'd them in common with us all, for we have all been under a general *Whitchcraft in Trade ever since this War*. I shall not now examine; but I'll lay down some Generals, which I may have more Leisure to explain, in which the *East-India Company* have, as King *Charles II.* said of the *Statistors*, shown themselves a *Swampy*——I do not say of what, let the Consequence determine that, after I have laid down some Heads, which I say they might have done.

1. I affirm, they might have carry'd on their whole Trade in the greatest Magnitude they ever had brought it up to, without exporting one Ounce of Bullion from *England* in a Year.
2. They might have export'd a Million and a Half *per Annum* in Woollen Manufactures every Year, and have found an easie Vent for them to their own infinite Advantage, and the Nations too.
3. They might have had a full Liberty for the Return of all their Silks, Stuffs, &c. and not have interfer'd with our Manufacture at all.
4. They might, by the very Management of their single Trade, have been more assistant to the present War, than ever 50 Men of War and 30000 Men have been since the War began.
5. They had even by this Time fill'd themselves with Wealth, and the Nation with Trade, and made themselves the greatest Society of Men in Trade, that ever were or will be in the World.

If these are Paradoxes, I shall at any Time explain them, I doubt not, to a general Satisfaction, and I dare say to the Conviction of the Gentlemen themselves; I am sorry they had not their Eyes open to Things in their proper Season, I dare not promise them that it is not now too late. But of this hereafter.

MISCELLANEA.

F *Alere Fallentem Frans est*, say I, in Con-
 addition to the old Proverb, and 'tis
 Opinion, that it is a Sin to cheat the
 D.—I.

I made no Question, but when I charg'd
 some People with reproaching the late
 King *William*, they would have something
 or other to palliate—But did ever any Body
 think, they would have nothing to fly to
 but Recrimination, a Thing which was al-
 ways allow'd for a Confession of Guilt—
 And what is this Recrimination? Truly,
 that I have compar'd the Sufferings of King
James to those of King *Charles I.* and there-
 by reflect'd upon King *Charles I.*

Miserable Shifters! Whether will ye fly?
 Does it reflect upon King *Charles*, to say
 another suffer'd worse Things than He?
 You will agree to say, we hope He is in
 Heaven, would it reflect upon him to say,
 He that dy'd here in Peace, but reaches not
 that Place of Bliss, suffers beyond him?
 Was it impossible a Man should suffer more
 than King *Charles*?—But this is not the
 Enquiry, and you always take this Cause at
 the wrong End—Will you come to enquire,
 who each Person suffer'd by, and this is the
 true End of the Comparison?—And if the
High Flying Gentlemen will be pleased to
 examine how they drew K. *James* into the
 Miseries he suffer'd, betray'd him in them,
 and took up Arms against him for them,
 they will find some Reason to see, that
 there was something more than Rebellion
 in their Treachery, and something worse
 than Death in his Suffering?

And let none of my civilising Observers
 pretend here, that I call the taking Arms
 against King *James* Treason; No, no, as it
 was the Act of the Nation to defend their
 Rights and Liberties, it could not be Treas-
 on, the Law of Nature must then be Treas-
 on; for Nations to fight for Liberty, and
 oppose Tyranny, has been approv'd by
 GOD Almighty in all Ages, and has been
 the Practice of all Nations in the World.

But these Men were Traytors in the
 highest Degree for all that, and their Treas-
 on lay in their drawing him in to that
 Tyranny, pretending to call it the Do-
 ctrine of their Church, preaching it up as
 the Duty of the People to submit to it, and
 when it came to the Point, fly in his Face
 for it themselves. They were truly perjurd;
 other People took the Oaths in the true
 genuine Sence of an Oath of Allegiance,
 these took it in the Sence and Terms of a
 Tyrant Ruler, and Slaves instead of Sub-
 jects; and therefore it was Treason and
 Perjury in them, when it was not so in
 other People; according to the Case often
 stated in the taking Towns and re-taking
 them, and making the Inhabitants swear
 Allegiance alternatively, now to this, to-
 morrow to that Prince, as they fall under
 their Power.

We all allow, and no Man can challenge
 me here; what King *James* suffer'd as to the
 Nation, was nothing but what he had Rea-
 son to expect, and they had Reason to do—
 But what is this to his Passive Obedience
 Men? What he suffer'd from them, who pre-
 tended to be his Friends, and indeed were his
 Exciters to the ruinous Methods he fell upon,
 had something in it beyond the Agonies of
 Death; and a Man of much less Steadiness
 and Resolution than King *Charles I.* would
 with both Arms embrace a Scaffold before
 it; it was the Ingratitude of a *Brutus* made
 a *Cæsar* despair, and the Reproach of his
 Friends made a *Job* impatient.

They were the Words of King *James*
 himself to a Clergy-man, well known still at
Faversham, and they were heard by many
 yet alive, when he coldly let the King in
 that Condition entreat him to assist in pac-
 ifying the tumultuous People, *It is the*
Men of your Cloib, Sir, have brought me to
this——Who could he mean; but those
 Mad-men of the Pulpit, that periwaded
 him, they would stand by him in oppressing
 the Liberties of the People, and that the
 Doctrine

Doftrine of the Church of England oblig'd them all to ftand ftill, and let the King exercife his abfolute Will upon them, let it be to Liberty, Eftate, Religion or Life; it was you Paffive-Obedience Cheats, you *Jure Divino* Jugglers, fays his Majefty, have brought me to this, and now you will not fo much as concern your felf to appeafe a Rabble for me.

Let no Man think ill of me for it, neither I believe can they juftly of any honeft Man, if I own that we all pity King James as a Man, as a Prince, and as a Prince impos'd upon abus'd by a villainous Party—A Party, that leading him to the Brink of the Pit, thruft him in, and flood ftill and infulted him; a Party, that prompting him to break and difpenfe with the Laws and Liberties of his People, as long as they had any Profpert of a Share in the Plunder, as foon as ever they found it turn upon themfelves, were the firft that cry'd Fire, and rais'd the whole Country upon him.

Now, let the State of his Cafe between him and his People be what it will, let the Revolution be on never fo juft and rational a Foundation, as I firmly believe nothing in the World more juft, yet thefe were Scarlet-Traytors, their Treachery finells of *Topber*, 'tis black as Hell, and aggravated with the very fame Guilt, for which their Grand-Father Judas hang'd himfelf.

Of thefe People I cannot but collect you a few Lines, which tho' already printed, every Reader may not have feen, and being on the very fame Subject, 'tis their Fault they are twice cook'd up.

*If any Prince is flatter'd to believe,
Subjects will blind Obedience to him give;
Let him be wary, e're he comes to try,
They'll all by Practice give their Words the Lye;
If any doubts the Caution is not fo,
Let him to England for Precedents go.*

*We courted Chains but 'twas in Court-Dif-
guife,
And Holy Fraud conceal'd the Sacred Lyes;*

*The Church, the Monnebank; the King, the
Feft;*

*The wheedl'd Monarch, and the wheedling
Priest;*

*Soon as Coercives firft began to appear,
They made their Mafter buy the Feft too dear,
Told him they'd willingly fupport his Crown,
In any ones Oppreffion but their own;
But when their own Subjection they forefaw,
Thefe cry'd out loudeft Liberty and Law;
Their vow'd Submiffion early they with bell,
Firft beg'd their Monarch's Pardon, then re-
bell'd;*

*Softly diffis'd him from his Rights Divine,
And unswore all Allegiance to his Line.
The horrid Villany is plain from hence,
Not in the Change but in the firft Pretence;
For when he prov'd the patient Paffive Strike,
His Sufferings may their Honesty defcribe.*

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